



PRESS RELEASE

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Action for Housing are Guilty of Hypocrisy

Action for Housing is clearly on an unreasonable vendetta in relation to the case they have raised in their recent Press Release.

This particular applicant was seen by the staff of the Ministry for Housing who, following that meeting, felt that his particular circumstances merited consideration for social allocation and that he met the criteria to be expedited an allocation. The allocation was made by the Housing Department in the normal way because procedures allow for age, medical conditions and current living conditions to be taken into account. At no time did the Minister for Housing meet with the individual and nor is he known to her.

At the same time, a bedsit flat became available after it had been rejected on numerous occasions for being too small. It was then offered to this applicant who immediately accepted it.

Action for Housing now have unprecedented access to the Housing Department and meet with the Principal Housing Officer and her staff monthly. They present cases of applicants whose allocations they believe should be expedited. It is ironic that Action for Housing have, on previous occasions, asked both the Minister and the Housing Department for allocations in particular cases to be expedited even though they are not top of the list. The further irony is that this flat was previously offered to another applicant who was not top of the list following representations by Action for Housing on her behalf - and she rejected the flat. The final irony is that Action for Housing had themselves also made representations for this individual to be expedited as well. Therefore, the situation belies the total hypocrisy manifested by Action for Housing.

Action for Housing are trying to insinuate that there has been collusion or special treatment by the Minister. This is not the case as the Minister has never met with this individual.

It is abundantly clear that, in this case, the processes that exist to assist people who are in social need were applied perfectly correctly by the Department.